

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

CONSULAR VISIT TO ERDENET AND DARKHAN ON MARCH 23-24, 2011

We would like to invite interested U.S. citizens to meet with a U.S. Consular Officer on **March 23, 2011** at the Darkhan Hotel in **Darkhan** between 1:30–2:30 pm. On **March 24, 2011** the Consular Officer will be available at Sonor Khairkhan Hotel in **Erdenet** between 11:30–12:30.

In addition to talking to U.S. citizens and answering general questions, the Consular Officer also will be able to provide limited citizen services on-site. These include notary services and acceptance of passport and Consular Report of Birth Abroad applications. These services will be provided **by appointment only**. To make an appointment, please email your name, passport number, and type of service you are requesting to UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov by Friday, March 18, 2011.

In addition to any required documents listed on our [website](#), please make sure you have photocopies of all your originals and translations with you. If you need a passport for someone [under the age of 16](#), please understand that both parents and the child must come in person to submit the application. All the fees must be paid in exact change in U.S. dollars only.

Please let us know if you think you will be able to join us on March 23 or 24, 2011 by contacting the ACS Unit at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov.

Become a fan of **U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar, Consular Section** on Facebook.



Inside this issue:

Consular Visit to Erdenet and Darkhan on March 23-24, 2011	1
Consular Report of Birth Abroad Certificate Improvements	1
Warning about Malicious Emails in Diversity Visa	2
Safety Information for American Students Travelling Abroad	2
Worldwide Caution	2
Why do You Vote? - Slogan and Poster Contest	3
New Passport Forms Available March 1, 2011	3
Tax Information	4
Smart Traveler Enrollment Program	4
A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia	5
Travel Warnings and Alerts	5
Upcoming Holidays	5
Embassy Contact	5

Consular Report of Birth Abroad Certificate Improvements

The Department of State is pleased to announce the introduction of a redesigned Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA). The CRBA is an official record confirming that a child born overseas to a U.S. citizen parent acquired U.S. citizenship at birth. The redesigned document has state-of-the-art security features that make it extremely resistant to alterations or forgery.

CRBAs have been printed at U.S. Embassies and Consulates around the world since their introduction in 1919. Effective January 3, 2011, the overseas posts will still accept applications to document the citizenship of children born overseas to U.S.-citizen parents but CRBAs will be printed at our passport facilities in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and New Orleans, Louisiana. Centralizing production and eliminating the distribution of controlled blank form stock throughout the world ensures improved uniform quality and lessens the threat of fraud.

Applications for U.S. passports and the redesigned CRBA will also use the title of “parent” as opposed to “mother” and “father.” These improvements are being made to provide a gender neutral description of a child’s parents and in recognition of different types of families.

Visit our website if you have any questions about CRBA:
http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/report_of_birth.html

Safety Information for American Students Traveling Abroad

As spring break approaches, many students are preparing for a trip abroad. The State Department's website for students traveling overseas provides useful safety and travel information for parents and students alike:

studentsabroad.state.gov

The majority of students will have safe and enjoyable adventures. However, even on the best-planned trips, things can go wrong. Each year more than 2,500 U.S. citizens are arrested abroad, nearly half of them on narcotics charges, including possession of very small amounts of illegal substances. U.S. citizens have been badly injured or killed in accidents, falls, and other mishaps. Many of these incidents have been linked to alcohol and drug use. Other spring break vacationers have been sexually assaulted or robbed because they found themselves in unfamiliar locales, incapable of protecting themselves because of drug or alcohol use, or because they were victims of a "date rape" drug.

The most common cause of death of U.S. citizens overseas, other than natural causes, is by motor vehicle accident. Students traveling abroad should be aware that standards of safety overseas are different from those in the United States.

We urge all U.S. citizens traveling, studying, or residing abroad to sign up online for our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment makes it possible for the State Department to contact the student traveler in the case of a family emergency in the United States or because of a crisis in a foreign country.



Warning about Malicious Emails on Diversity Visa

During the past couple of weeks we have received numerous emails from Mongolian citizens with the request to verify if they had won the Diversity Visa Lottery.

The Department of State wants to emphasize that the Bureau of Consular Affairs never provides notification of DV selection via e-mail. For DV-2012, notification of selection will only be made through Entry Status Check on the E-DV website <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov>

If you know someone who has received such a malicious email, please tell them not to believe any spam e-mail sent by criminal operators who seek to defraud individuals of their money.

We are always eager to answer any questions the recipients of the spam emails may have.

WORLDWIDE CAUTION

The Department of State has issued this Worldwide Caution to update information on the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. U.S. citizens are reminded to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. This replaces the Worldwide Caution dated August 12, 2010, to provide updated information on security threats and terrorist activities worldwide.

To see the full text of the Worldwide Caution, please visit http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_4787.html



“WHY DO YOU VOTE?”

Now is your chance to express your thoughts on the importance of voting by entering the **2011 FVAP Voting Slogan Contest and Poster Contest**. The **April 8, 2011** deadline for submissions is fast approaching.

The winning contest entries will be used to promote interest in the electoral process among military members, their families and U.S. citizens worldwide for the 2012 presidential election year.

The FVAP Poster Contest seeks artwork illustrating the importance of and/or how it feels to be an American citizen voting absentee from anywhere in the world. This artwork will be used to create the 2012 voting poster and Voting Assistance Guide cover. The FVAP Poster Contest details are located at FVAP.gov and <http://challenge.gov/challenges/116>. All artistic skill levels are encouraged to create and submit entries.

The FVAP Slogan Contest asks for slogan ideas that inspire members of the military, their families and U.S. Citizens residing overseas to start or continue to participate in elections while away from home and can be found at FVAP.gov and <http://challenge.gov/challenges/115>. The slogan will also be used on the 2012 Voting poster.

All submissions must include your full name, branch of service (if military), mailing address, daytime telephone number, fax number (phone and fax numbers should include all necessary country/city codes or DSN prefixes) and e-mail address (if applicable).

To submit your entry:

On-line: Go to Challenge.gov using the links above or type “FVAP” in the search bar to find these challenges. Use the orange “Post a Submission” button to upload your entries.

E-mail: slogan@fvap.gov. One slogan or poster per e-mail including contact information.

Mail: Federal Voting Assistance Program
Attn: Voting Slogan/Poster Contest
1777 North Kent Street, Suite 14003
Arlington, VA 22209

The contest winner and runners-up will not only feel the satisfaction of knowing that their slogan is helping improve voter awareness and participation, but they will receive a trip to our nation’s capital to participate in special events and tours. Runners-up will receive a certificate of recognition from the Department for their contribution to this important endeavor.

There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit, but we request that all slogans and posters be submitted individually. All submissions must be received by **April 8, 2011**. Please join the FVAP in helping to inspire others to vote by submitting your entry today and you could be one of this year’s winners!

NEW PASSPORT FORMS AVAILABLE MARCH 1, 2011

Travel.State.Gov and the U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar will make the new forms for U.S. passport applications available on March 1, 2011.

The passport forms that are being updated as of March 1 are:

- Form DS-11: *Application for a U.S. Passport*
- Form DS-82: *U.S. Passport Renewal Application for Eligible Individuals*
- Form DS-4085: *Application for Additional Visa Pages or Miscellaneous Passport Services*
- Form DS-5504: *Application for a U.S. Passport (Name Change, Data Correction, Limited Passport Replacement)*
- Form DS-3053: *Statement of Consent or Special Circumstances: Issuance of a Passport to a Minor under Age 16*

**“Better to die
standing
than to live
kneeling” -**

**Mongolian
proverb**

TAX INFORMATION

Income tax season is fast approaching. We recommend that you obtain your tax forms online at <http://www.irs.gov/formspubs/index.html>.

Please note that all U.S. citizens or resident aliens must report and pay federal tax on their worldwide income, even if they live abroad. For your convenience, attached is an electronic copy of the [Publication 4732](#) and it is also available on the internet at <http://www.irs.gov>

For more information on U.S. taxes, please consult the list of websites and telephone numbers below to help find the forms and answers you need.

STATE TAX RETURNS: For individual state income tax information, visit <http://www.taxadmin.org/>. The Embassy does not have state tax forms or state tax information

Main IRS website: www.irs.gov

Tax guidance for U.S. citizens abroad: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0..id=97324.00.html>

Tax guidance for persons in the military: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/military/index.html>

Electronic payment website: <http://www.eftps.gov/>

Refund information: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0..id=96596.00.html?portlet=4>

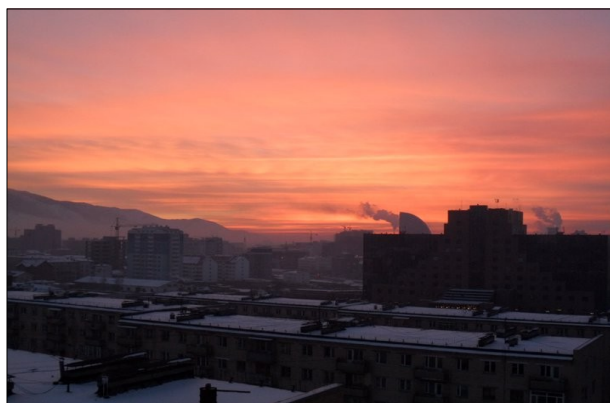
Most of you are likely aware of the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion (FEIE), which is the amount of income earned overseas that may be excluded from U.S. income taxes if certain criteria are met. The maximum FEIE amount for 2010 is \$91,500. However, one of the criteria to qualify for the FEIE is the "Physical Presence Test." This means the U.S. taxpayer must have been physically present in a foreign country for at least 330 days during CY 2010 or during a period of consecutive 12 months starting or ending in 2010. The www.irs.gov website has Publication 54 which provides a more detailed explanation of FEIE.

SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

Stay Informed. Sign up for our free [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (formerly known as "Travel Registration" or "Registration with Embassies") to receive the latest travel updates and information! You only need to sign up once, and then you can add and delete trips from your account based on your current travel plans!

Stay Connected. By connecting with us on the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#), we will be able to assist you better in the case of an emergency, such as if you lose your passport or it is stolen while you are abroad. We also assist U.S. citizens in other emergencies, such as in natural disasters.

Stay Safe. We believe that a well-informed traveler is a safer traveler. Our consular officers around the world compile [country-specific information](#), [travel alerts](#), [travel warnings](#), fact sheets and warden messages to provide you with timely and accurate travel information about every country where you may travel. Stay informed by connecting with us via our [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) so you can have safe and enjoyable travels!



A Message to American Communities and Organizations in Mongolia

The Embassy encourages all business groups, churches, private companies, and other organizations with a nucleus of American citizens to make sure that the Embassy has a point of contact for your group.

To receive Embassy announcements and advisories via e-mail, please join the Embassy Newslist. Your membership in the Embassy Newslist will assure you of receiving Embassy issued announcements and advisories in a timely manner. Your private information will be kept strictly confidential.

Send an email to the Embassy at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov giving the name of your organization, a point of contact (POC), email address, phone number, and any other contact information. It is not necessary that your POC be an American citizen. The Embassy will use this information to contact your group in an emergency. Please type "Group Contact Info" on the subject line of your email.

Upcoming Holidays

March 8—International Women's Day

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
Embassy of the United States
11th Micro District
Big Ring Road
Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
Tel: 976-11329-095
Fax: 976-11320-776
After-hours
or emergency number: 9911-4168
E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
- or -
American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
4410 Ulaan Baatar Place Washington,
DC, 20521

Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Eritrea](#) 02/27/2011

[Libya](#) 02/21/2011

[Egypt](#) 02/18/2011

[Mali](#) 02/09/2011

[Pakistan](#) 02/02/2011

[New Zealand](#) 02/25/2011

[Bahrain](#) 02/18/2011

[Tunisia](#) 02/18/2011

[ICC Cricket World Cup](#) 02/17/2011

[United Kingdom and Gibraltar \(England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland\)](#) 01/31/2011

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

WONDERING IF THE FLIGHT IS ON TIME?

This website has virtually every flight in the world and is updated regularly. It has been used for MIAT and Korean Air flights and it has been accurate every time.

<http://www.flightstats.com/>

